



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SELF-HELP HOUSING OF EAST TEXAS, INC.

JASPER, TEXAS, MARCH 15, 2005 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Self-Help Housing of East Texas, Incorporated was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant through the agency's Section 523 Self-Help Housing Program. The funds will be used for administrative costs associated with developing a final application with an objective of developing a Self-Help Housing Program to assist 14 households in Newton County.

"Homeownership is part of the American dream and this program helps rural families obtain that dream by building their own home," said Daniel. "In fiscal year 2004, more than \$664,000 was awarded to eligible organizations in Texas which assisted more than 80 families through USDA Rural Development's Self-Help Technical Assistance Program."

The Self-Help Housing Program funds non-profit organizations that will provide technical and supervisory assistance to families to build their own homes in rural areas. Typically, groups of six to eight families work together to construct their own homes under the guidance of the grantee.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 with a mission to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Lufkin office at (936) 634-9901, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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